

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 EUR-25 NEA-10 AID-20 PC-04 SY-10

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8458

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, MX

SUBJECT: DEVELOPMENTS IN GUADALAJARA KIDNAPPINGS

REF: MEXICO 7758

1. SUMMARY: HONORARY BRITISH CONSUL IN GUADALAJARA RELEASED OCT 14 WITHOUT PAYMENT OF RANSOM, BUT FATE OF OTHER VICTIM STILL UNKNOWN. GOM CONTINUES INTENSIVE SEARCH. CABINET MEMBERS, LED BY FOREIGN SECRETARY, PLEDGE AGREEMENT WITH NEW GOM POLICY AGAINST DEALING WITH KIDNAPPERS. HALF-MILLION PERSONS ATTEND RALLY IN SUPPORT OF ECHEVERRIA ADMINISTRATION. END SUMMARY

2. AFTER ANNOUNCING EVENING OCT 12 THAT IT WOULD NOT DEAL WITH KIDNAPPERS OF HONORARY BRITISH CONSUL ANTHONY DUNCAN WILLIAMS AND LUIS FERNANDO ARANGUREN CASTIELLO (REFTEL), GOM ON OCT 13 ACCEDED TO FAMILIES' REQUEST AND ANNOUNCED THAT IT WOULD GRANT KIDNAPPERS SAFE-CONDUCT OUT OF MEXICO TO COUNTRY OF THEIR CHOOSING. CUBAN EMBASSY SIMILARLY EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO ACT AS INTERMEDIARY AND DESIGNATED FIRST SECRETARY JORGE REYES VEGA AS REPRESENTATIVE FOR THIS PURPOSE.

3. ONLY REPORTED ACTION BY KIDNAPPERS THROUGH MID-DAY OCT 15,
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HOWEVER, WAS TO RELEASE WILLIAM UNHARMED EVENING OF OCT 14

AND, ACCORDING TO HIS FAMILY, WITHOUT PAYMENT OF CASH RANSOM OR ANY OTHER CONDITION. HE HAD APPARENTLY BEEN HELD IN RURAL AREA OUTSIDE GUADALAJARA AND WAS DROPPED OFF IN CITY SHORT DISTANCE FROM HIS HOME. WILLIAMS HAS REPORTEDLY SAID HE WAS NOT HELD WITH ARANGUREN AND ONLY LEARNED OF LATTER'S KIDNAPPING WHEN HIS OWN ABDUCTORS PERMITTED HIM TO LISTEN TO NEWS BROADCAST. WILLIAMS QUOTED AS SAYING HE WILL RESIGN HIS POST AS HONORARY CONSUL, AS HE PROMISED KIDNAPPERS, AND THAT HIS NOT BEING CAREER CONSUL IS WHAT SAVED HIS LIFE.

4. ALTHOUGH ARANGUREN FAMILY'S OFFER TO PAY CASH RANSOM AND GOM'S SAFE-CONDUCT PROMISE STILL STAND, INTENSIVE SEARCH IN AND AROUND GUADALAJARA CONTINUES. GOM IS KEEPING TWO HELICOPTERS BELONGING TO ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE AIRBORNE OVER THE CITY MUCH OF THE TIME, AND ON OCT 14 IT DISPATCHED 105 FEDERAL DISTRICT POLICEMEN TO GUADALAJARA, REPORTEDLY FIRST TIME D.F. POLICE HAVE BEEN USED IN SUCH AN OPERATION OUTSIDE THEIR OWN TERRITORY. JALISCO GOVERNOR ALBERTO OROZCO ROMERO IN NEWS CONFERENCE OCT 14 DENIED THAT THESE WERE PSYCHOLOGICAL MEASURES INTENDED TO "PRODUCE PSYCHOSIS" IN KIDNAPPERS.

5. IN RELATED DEVELOPMENT, FONSEC EMILIO RABASA HAS ANNOUNCED HE IS SENDING LETTER TO PRES. ECHEVERRIA ENDORSING NEW GOM POLICY OF REFUSING TO DEAL WITH CRIMINAL "BLACKMAILERS" AND SPECIFICALLY REJECTING ANY GOM COMPLIANCE WITH DEMANDS SHOULD HE HIMSELF BE KIDNAPPED. RABASA SAID HIS DECISION WAS PRACTICAL AND AN ACT OF OBLIGATION TOWARD ECHEVERRIA WHICH WOULD GIVE GOM GREATER FREEDOM OF ACTION AGAINST CRIMINALS IN ANY FUTURE KIDNAPPING. OTHER CABINET MEMBERS HAVE HASTENED TO ASSOCIATE SELVES WITH RABASA'S POSITION, ONE OF THEM NOTING THAT SUCH POLICY SHOULD LESSEN LIKELIHOOD OF FURTHER KIDNAPPINGS.

6. ECHEVERRIA HIMSELF ATTENDED TWO-HOUR "GRAND ACT OF NATIONAL SOLIDARITY" OCT 14 AND HEARD POLICIES OF HIS ADMINISTRATION EULOGIZED BY HEADS OF FOUR SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS (REFTEL). CAREFULLY ORGANIZED EVENT DREW CROWD ESTIMATED AT 500,000 OR MORE, MOST OF THEM LITTLE DAUNTED BY RAINFALL HALFWAY THROUGH.

7. IN RELATIVELY BRIEF REMARKS AT CONCLUSION OF CEREMONY,
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ECHEVERRIA SAID HIS ADMINISTRATION WOULD NOT CHANGE DIRECTION OF ITS POLICIES DESPITE EXCESSES COMMITTED BY MINORITIES, ACTS OF VIOLENCE, OR (UNSPECIFIED), "EXTERNAL INJUSTICE." IN PERORATION RECALLING HIS 1970 CAMPAIGN THEME, HE SAID: "MEXICO TODAY VIGOROUSLY RENEWS ITS MARCH, WITHOUT FEARS OR MISGIVINGS; UPWARDS, IN SEARCH OF A DESTINY WORTHY OF ITS PAST, AND FORWARD, WHERE THE ENERGY OF ITS PEOPLE LEADS IT."

8. RALLY ALREADY BEING INTERPRETED BY EDITORIALISTS AND COLUMNISTS
AS MAJOR ACHIEVEMENT FOR ADMINISTRATION AND MASSIVE DEMONSTRATION
OF POPULAR SUPPORT, WITH SOME COLUMNISTS DEFENDING IT AGAINST
ANTICIPATED CHARGES OF HAVING BEEN STAGE-MANAGED.
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